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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 29 2006****REMARKS**

This application pertains to a novel adhesive tape, having a plasticized polyvinyl chloride backing and an adhesive composed of an aqueous dispersion of styrene-acrylate copolymers.

Claims 1 and 3 -13 are pending.

Claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber (Derwent Abstract of DE 4228436A1).

The reference must, however, be considered for the whole of what it teaches. DE 42 28 436 discloses a great many possible copolymers that could be used in the adhesive that it is concerned with, and then almost as an after-thought, indicates that the copolymers could also include styrene. The Examiner has not pointed to any specific teaching of an adhesive that is an aqueous dispersion of styrene-acrylic acid derivatives. More important, however, is that fact that at page 4, lines 3-5, the DE 42 28 436 reference indicates that their adhesive is resistant to the plasticizer.

The core of Applicants' invention is based on the migration of the plasticizer from the PVC sheet into the adhesive. This allows Applicants to adjust the adhesive properties of the adhesive by varying the concentration of plasticizer in the PVC sheet.

Those skilled in the art reading DE 42 28 436 would not see any disclosure or suggestion of an adhesive having plasticizers migrated from the backing sheet into the adhesive. Accordingly, Applicants' claims cannot be seen as anticipated or suggested by DE 42 28 436, and the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber (Derwent Abstract of DE 4228436A1) should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Czerepinski et al (US 4,713,412).

The Examiner relies on Czerepinski's Example III for a teaching of a PSA comprising 35% styrene and 3% acrylic acid. However, the reference teaches that this composition is not, in fact, a pressure-sensitive adhesive. Note the results in Table III. The composition referred to by the Examiner had a peel adhesion of only 0.2 and a shear adhesion of 0! No one would ever use this on an adhesive tape. Accordingly, Czerepinski cannot be seen as teaching or suggesting Applicants' novel adhesive tape, and the rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Czerepinski et al (US 4,713,412) should now be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber in view of Schwarcz (US 4,002,794).

The Examiner relies on Schwarcz for a coatweight of adhesive, a primer layer and a release layer. No particular coatweight, primer layer or release layer could possibly overcome the differences pointed out above between Applicants' adhesive tape and anything that can be found in the Hauber reference. The rejection of claims 3, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber in view of Schwarcz (US 4,002,794) should accordingly now be withdrawn.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber in view of Glennon (US 4,311,759). The Examiner relies on Glennon for antioxidants, antifoams and surface active agents. Here again, no antioxidant, antifoam or surface-active agent could possibly overcome the differences pointed out above between Applicants' novel adhesive tape and anything that can be found in the Hauber reference. The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hauber in view of Glennon (US 4,311,759) should accordingly now be withdrawn.

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is believed that claims 1 and 3 -13 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

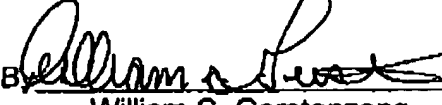
If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account


No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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Date August 29, 2006